

Yet today House Republicans continue to try to strip Planned Parenthood of its Federal funding and continue to use this issue as a bargaining chip in a debate over the budget.

But the vote the Senate will have to take is clearly not about the budget, it is a war on women's health. This effort would essentially turn back the clock on women's health.

I said this last week, and I will say it again. This is simply an opportunity for the right wing in the House to really sock it to American women.

Let's talk about the facts.

Over 90 percent of care provided by Planned Parenthood is preventive. Planned Parenthood provides care to almost 3 million patients nationwide every year, many of whom have no other place to go.

Only 3 percent of Planned Parenthood's total services are abortion services. And that 3 percent is not made up of Federal funds.

Every year, Planned Parenthood provides affordable contraception for nearly 2.5 million patients, nearly 1 million cervical cancer screens, 830,000 breast exams, and 4 million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections, including half a million HIV tests.

These critical preventive services include annual exams, flu vaccines, smoking cessation, and well baby care.

Planned Parenthood helped to prevent 612,000 unintended pregnancies in 2009 alone. Every dollar invested in helping women avoid unintended pregnancies saves \$4 in public funds.

And House Republicans want to eliminate Federal funding for this program?

These cuts are biased, politically motivated, and hurts women—particularly low-income women.

Seventy-five percent of Planned Parenthood's clients have incomes at or below 150 percent of the Federal poverty level.

In California alone, Planned Parenthood serves over 750,000 patients, over 680,000 of them through federal funds.

This program is necessary, effective, and oftentimes a last resort.

Let me share a story from one woman from my home State of California.

Mary couldn't afford annual visits to her regular OB/GYN office during college. So a friend suggested she visit Planned Parenthood for a free exam.

Mary said, "After some hesitation I went. Thank god that I did. During my visit they found that I had the first signs of cervical cancer. I was 19 and terrified.

"The staff at Planned Parenthood was so supportive and understanding. One doctor in particular was amazing, I wish I could find her and thank her personally. She went out of her way to call and check up on me once a week until I had recovered completely from the procedure that got rid of the cancerous cells."

Six years later, Mary is still healthy and still so grateful for the excellent

and compassionate care she received at Planned Parenthood.

There are thousands of other stories like Mary's. I have heard from these young women who went to Planned Parenthood for STD screening and birth control, when they had no other place to go.

I have heard from women pleading with me to preserve Federal funding to Planned Parenthood; telling me that the cancer screenings they received saved their lives.

The House Republicans also want to defund the Affordable Care Act, and block critical consumer protections in the law.

This too targets women. House Republicans want to go back to the days where women could be denied insurance coverage for the "preexisting condition" of being pregnant.

They want to reinstate gender rating, where insurance companies charge women higher premiums simply because of gender.

House Republicans want to remove maternity care as an essential health benefit. Currently only 12 percent of health plans in the individual market offer any maternity coverage.

So you see, defunding Planned Parenthood and the Affordable Care Act is not about reducing the deficit or balancing the budget. It is about harming women.

We need to look carefully at our spending and we need to make cuts, but not at the expense of the women in our country.

It is a shame that the budget debate has turned into an ideological war.

It is a shame that funding for health care and family planning is considered "government waste" by some Republicans.

When in reality, it is an ideological assault on women's health. I do not support any cuts that harm women and children.

I urge my colleagues return to the issue at hand so we can seriously discuss the Federal deficit, absent an ideological agenda.

REMEMBERING SIDNEY HARMAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it was with great sadness that I first received word of the passing of a remarkable man and friend, Sidney Harman. Sidney Harman led a life of passion and commitment, the kind of existence that most of us aspire to. His interests were vast and varied and his sense of possibility unparalleled. With business acumen equal to his mastery of the sciences and his love of the arts, Sidney embraced challenges and faced life head on.

I had the pleasure of knowing Sidney throughout his career as a businessman, entrepreneur, public servant, and philanthropist. He left his distinctive mark on every project he involved himself with and brought his progressive ideas to bear at a critical time in our nation's history. His ability to inno-

vate never waned, creative solutions were a forte of his and he applied them with confidence. His most recent endeavor, to purchase Newsweek and merge it with the online publication the Daily Beast less than a year ago, was initially met with trepidation by print news professionals but has since led to growth for both publications, a typical outcome for a venture championed by Sidney.

Sidney's commitment to the betterment of young lives and society as a whole was evident in his philanthropic pursuits and his involvement with institutions of higher education. In recent years he taught classes in medicine, law, economics, and various other disciplines at the college level. Over the course of his life he supported educational organizations with generous donations. He understood that education is the foundation of a prosperous society and that the enlightenment of young minds is crucial to the success of a nation such as ours.

Along with his wife Jane, Sidney made a home and life here in Washington, DC, and devoted himself to the city and its legacy. A generous supporter of the National Symphony Orchestra, the Folger Shakespeare Library and the Shakespeare Theatre Company, Sidney had a significant impact on the vibrant cultural and artistic scene in the Nation's Capital.

My greatest sympathies are with Jane, his children Barbara, Daniel, and Justine, and all of Sidney's extended family. Sidney touched the lives of many and there is no doubt he will be long-remembered for his innovative mind, his good humor, his energetic outlook, and his years of service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE EAT'N PARK HOSPITALITY GROUP

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations to the Eat'n Park Hospitality Group upon receiving the prestigious 2011 Restaurant Neighbor Award from the National Restaurant Association. Every year, the National Restaurant Association honors restaurant companies that have gone above and beyond in giving back to their communities through philanthropy and service. This year, Eat'n Park has been deservedly recognized for their charitable efforts on behalf of local children's hospitals.

Eat'n Park restaurants have been a staple in my home State of Pennsylvania for over 50 years. From their humble beginnings as a single carhop restaurant in Pittsburgh, the Eat'n Park chain has grown to include 76 restaurants throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, employing over 8,000 hardworking people, many of whom are my constituents. Over the past six decades, their delicious food and friendly service have soothed many